

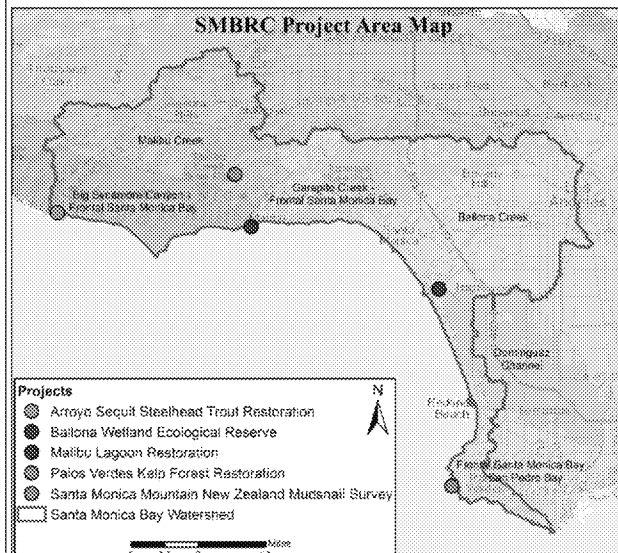
Draft agenda- SMBNEP Overview (5.30.2019)

- Intro to SMBNEP 15-min
 - SMBNEP Management Committee/Governing Board- current priorities
 - Governance and structure
 - CCMP: Action Plan & Governance and Structure
- Program Evaluation (PE) overview 25-min
 - a.k.a. PE guidance 'cliff notes' & site visit overview
- Upcoming 15-min
 - FOIA
 - Governance discussions and workshops
- Additional follow-up? 5-min

Does DS want a role?

Lay of the land and Who's Who- elements of the SMBNEP

Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program



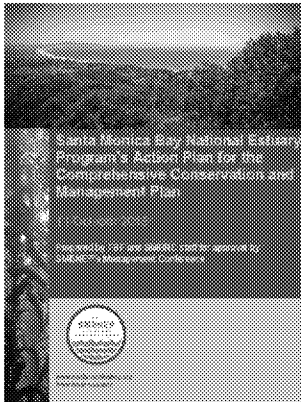
- Formed in 1988
- First CCMP approved in 1995
- Management: Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission-The Bay Foundation
 - The Bay Foundation: NEP Director +~13 staff
 - SWRCB: ~2 staff
- Governing Board: decision-making body
 - comprised of locals, state, feds, dischargers, nonprofits. EPA is a nonvoting member.

-Part of this first generation of NEPs to be approved.

- the two largest watersheds are Malibu Creek to the north (west) and Ballona Creek to the south. The Malibu Creek area contains mostly undeveloped mountain areas, large acreage residential properties and many natural stream reaches while Ballona Creek is predominantly channelized, and highly developed with both residential and commercial properties. It contains Ballona wetlands, one of the last remaining coastal wetlands in LA County. You've heard from particularly vocal stakeholders from this area.

-you can see examples of some of the NEP's project. I will touch on just a couple of these during my presentation.

Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan



First CCMP approved in 1995- primarily focused on water quality, stormwater, POTWs, nonpoint sources, human health

2018 CCMP Goals

Protect, enhance, and improve ecosystems of Santa Monica Bay and its watersheds

Improve water availability

Enhance socioeconomic benefits to the public

Enhance public engagement and education

Mitigate impacts and increase resiliency to climate change

Improve monitoring and ability to assess effectiveness of management actions

Upcoming Approvals

-NEP governing board: December 2019

-EPA RS and HQ: concurrence role

44 actions

First ccmp was primarily focused on improving water quality

New 2018 CCMP action plan is primarily focused on restoration, coastal resiliency, and incorporates climate change considerations

Captures work of NEP staff and their partners

National Estuary Program Program Evaluation Overview

PE Purpose

- Assess how well NEPs are using funds to implement CCMPs
- Allows EPA to keep funding NEPs
- Every 5 years
- PE Findings
 - Pass/Fail
 - NEP will receive a final PE letter with a determination of *“pass,” “conditional pass,” or “fail”*

Program Evaluation Team

HQ+R9+Ex-officio NEP Director

- Vince Bacalan
- Erica Yelensky
- Jennifer Heckert- Charlotte Harbor--> Coastal and Heartland NEP (Florida)

PE Timeline

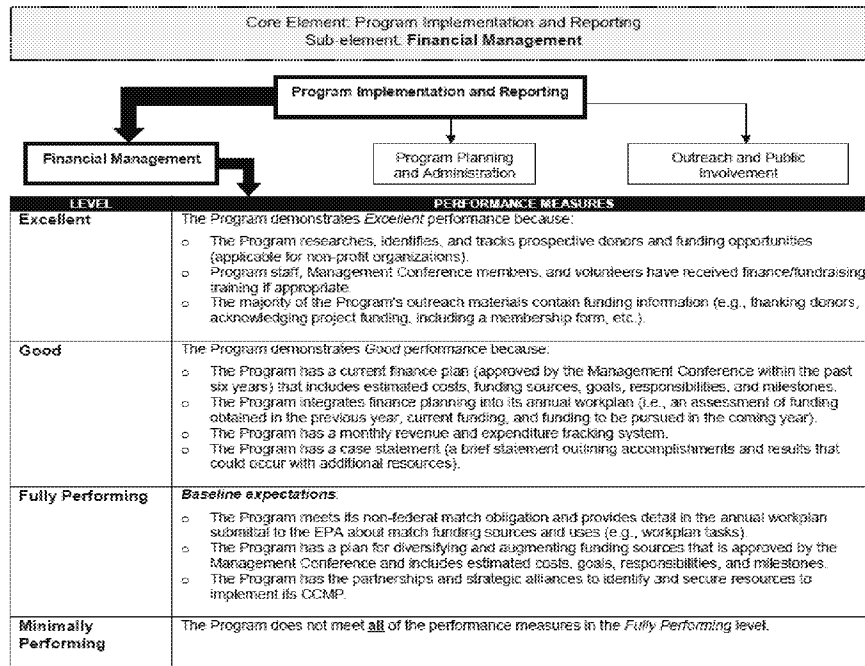
- NEP Self – Assessment: NEP submits PE Package (March 15)- NEP self-assessment
- ❖ June 17-20: Site Visit
- Post-site visit: PE team holds conference call with the NEP Director to allow the NEP Director the opportunity to address concerns raised during the on-site visit.
- End of July 2019: PE team prepares final draft PE letter and provides the NEP Director an opportunity to review before it is finalized.
- PE Team finalizes the formal findings letter for signing by the NEP HQ Branch Chief (Bob Benson).
- Late August 2019: HQ NEP Branch Chief reviews and signs the PE letter.
- If NEP Director requests, the PE team can discuss the final PE letter with the Management Conference in order to discuss and/or clarify findings.

Focus on regional role- via PE team

NEP's Self-Assessment- Part 1

- Financial Management
- Program Planning and Administration
- Outreach and Public Involvement
- Reporting
- Assessment and Monitoring
- Research (optional)

NEP's Self-Assessment - Part 1 Standardized Performance Measures Responses



NEP's Self-Assessment- Part 2

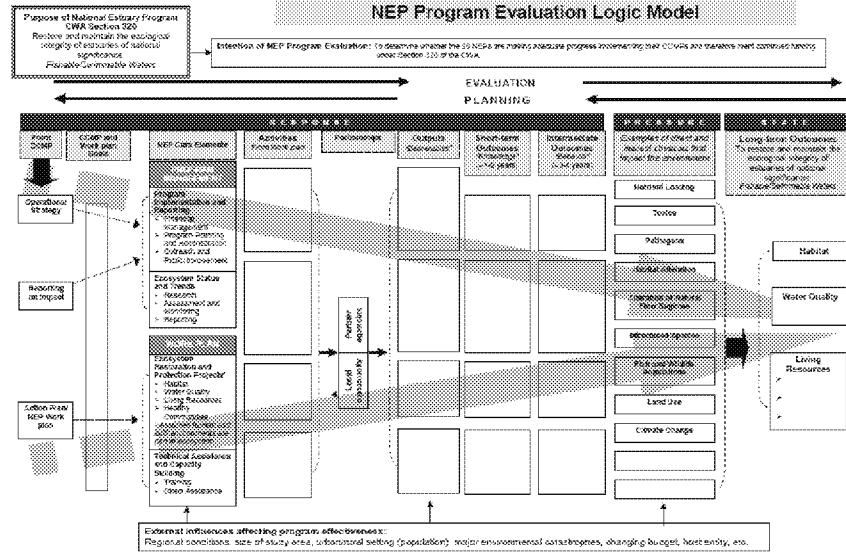
Workplan Narrative Summary

Key NEP work plan goals and activities, stages of progress toward achieving the NEP's environmental milestones and targets, and role of key stakeholders supporting the activities. The following elements describe **generally** what is in an NEP work plan to achieve CCMP goals:

- 1) Habitat
- 2) Water Quality
- 3) Living Resources
- 4) Healthy Communities
- 5) Trainings
- 6) Direct Assistance

NEP's Self-Assessment- Part 2

Workplan Narrative Summary



On-Site Visit Purpose

The NEP should use the PE on-site visit to:

- demonstrate successes and accomplishments, especially those that are innovative and have technical transfer possibilities;
- expand upon work plan progress summarized in the work plan narrative summary; and
- demonstrate how external factors may be influencing progress toward environmental milestones and targets.

The PE team members should use the on-site visit to:

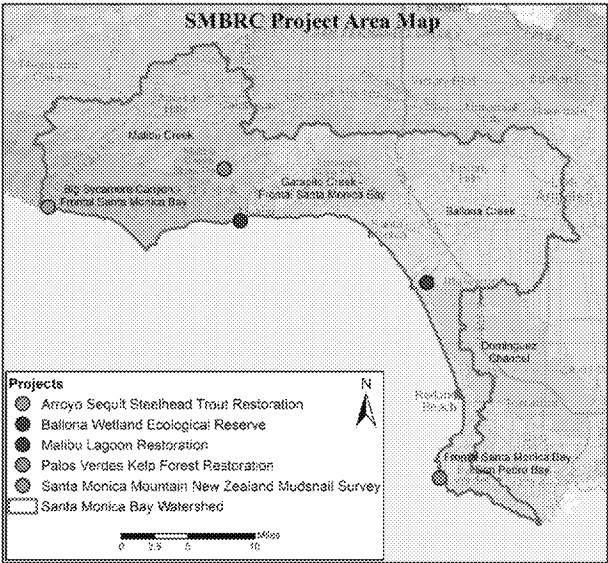
- meet and build relationships among EPA and NEP partners;
- discuss any questions or issues with submission of PE materials;
- discuss preliminary findings (strengths and challenges); and
- identify and discuss potential program recommendations with NEP, if feasible.

Promote better transparency and documentation

Need to agree on desired structure and make sure documentation matches

Allows for productive stakeholder engagement

PE Site Visit



Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program- Kelp Forest Restoration

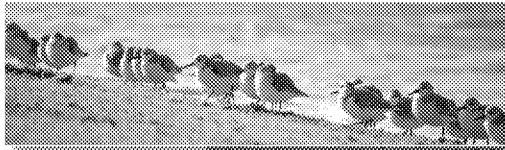
Commercial fishermen and TBF scientists restore and monitor rocky reefs in the Santa Monica Bay, respectively, as they are transformed from urchin barrens to kelp forests.



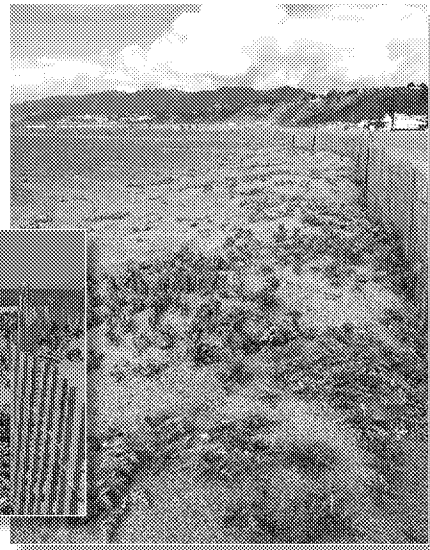
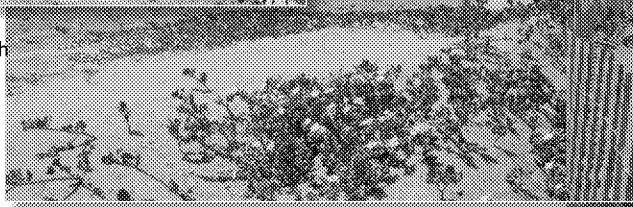
- In 2018, an additional 3.9 acres of kelp forest have been restored for a total of 46.9 acres since the project began in 2013
- Pre- and post-restoration monitoring continues across restoration sites

You may remember this project when the Santa Monica Bay NEP staff came to visit two or three years ago. This is a really exciting project primarily happening on the Palos Verdes shelf. The kelp forest, which provides habitat for sea life as well as benefits such as wave attenuation, is being decimated by purple sea urchins with no commercial value. The NEP partnered with commercial fishermen to basically smash purple sea urchins to restore kelp forest.

Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program Coastal Resilience



Santa Monica Beach
Restoration Pilot
Project



Restoring beach, dune, and nearshore eelgrass habitats in the NEP study area to improve coastal resilience.

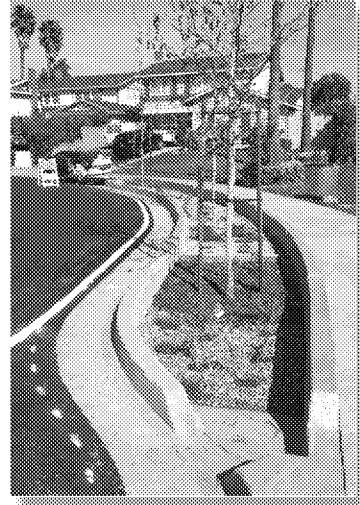
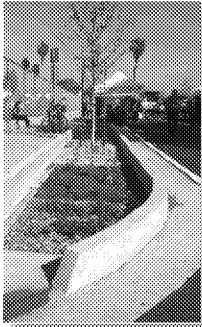
These pictures are from the Santa Monica beach restoration pilot project. This is a partnership between the NEP, city of Santa Monica, and LA beaches and harbors.

This is a lowtech, multi-benefit project, benefiting habit and people.

Staff installed fencing around a 2 acre parcel seeded over 40,000 seeds. Over two years approximately 1 m of sand has accumulated and plants are growing. Plus the endangered snowy plover is using the site. People are still able to access the beach. This project has been touted as a success. Cities are knocking on the NEP's door saying "when can I have one."

Three more projects in the works: Malibu Living Shoreline Project, Los Angeles living shoreline project, Manhattan Beach Dune restoration project

Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program Green Infrastructure



- Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's Milton Green Street project installed 14 Vegetated Stormwater Curb Extensions adjacent to Ballona Creek to capture and treat runoff (completed in 2018)

This SMBRC-managed program provides funding for projects including coastal watershed contamination prevention and coastal and marine habitat restoration.

One example of several GI projects funded with state prop money set aside for the commission.

Governing Board meeting(June 20, 2019)

a) Consideration of Approval of April 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes

b) **Presentation by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) performance evaluation team on the initial findings of the performance evaluation of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program**

c) Update on State Assembly Bill 1511 (Bloom): Coastal resources: Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

d) Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission/State Water Resources Control Board **staff update on proposed process** for updating the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Memorandum of Understanding

e) Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission/State Water Resources Control Board **Scoping Workshop** for the Proposed Potential Amendment to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Memorandum of Understanding.